

NEWSLETTER

American Theological Library Association

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Donn Michael Farris, Editor

EIGHTH ANNUAL ATLA CONFERENCE

Copies of the program for the eighth annual ATLA Conference to be held at the Chicago Theological Seminary June 15-17 have been sent to all members by the Association's secretary, Miss Esther George. Information concerning housing, reservations, and transportation has also been distributed to the membership. Anyone who has failed to receive any of this information may write to Miss George at Bonebrake Theological Seminary, 1810 Harvard Boulevard, Dayton 6, Ohio. Members of the ATLA who have not done so are urged to return their reservation cards to the conference hostess, Mrs. Kincheloe, at their earliest convenience.

All schools having manuals, descriptive booklets, guides, or other useful library hints which they would like to have displayed at the conference should send them in advance to Miss Mary McCulloch, Swift Hall Library, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Suggestions as to tours which members would like to take while in Chicago should be sent to Mr. Edward Sheppard at the same address.

The Committee on Library Buildings and Equipment requests that seminary librarians now engaged in remodeling or constructing library buildings bring pictures, sketches, and blueprints of these developments to the Chicago conference. Mr. Herbert H. Schmidt, chairman of the committee, also suggests that any sketches or plans of proposed buildings will be welcomed to round out the exhibition.

A Joint Publisher's Book Exhibit is being organized in connection with the conference by Mr. Alec R. Allenson of the Blessing Book Stores. Letters have been sent to 75 American and 6 English publishers asking that books be sent for exhibit, and a number of publishers have already responded in a very liberal manner. It is anticipated that a comprehensive and interesting exhibit of recent American and British publications will be available for display. An advance listing of the books to be exhibited will be sent to all members of the ATLA, so that they may be prepared to place orders during the conference. All books in the exhibit will be available at the close of the conference at a 50% discount and the proceeds from all such sales will be turned over to the treasury of the ATLA. The expenses incurred in organizing the exhibit will be held to a very moderate amount. The plan is to number orders in the order of their arrival so half-priced books can be made available on that basis.

The major addition to the conference program as last announced will be the appearance of the Reverend F. Wilbur Helmbold, currently a graduate student at Duke University and newly appointed Librarian of the Providence-Barrington Bible College in Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Helmbold has worked out a set of proposals for the establishment of a self-supporting cumulating religious periodical index; and the Executive Committee of the ATLA has invited him to attend the conference and present his plan to the entire membership for discussion, criticism, and possible ATLA action. Copies of the proposals will be provided for all association members when the conference convenes in Chicago.

STANDING CONFERENCE OF THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARIES IN LONDON

Dr. L. R. Elliott suggests that ATLA members may be interested in knowing more about the British organization known as the Standing Conference of Theological and Philosophical Libraries in London. He has submitted the following descriptive article by Mr. Robert L. Collison, Reference Librarian of the City of Westminster Public Library in London. Dr. Elliott wishes to raise with the ATLA membership the possibility of a representative group of ATLA members planning a visit to London for a joint meeting with the British theological librarians.

The article, which is reproduced below in its entirety, originally appeared in the July, 1953 issue of the Library Association Record and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author and of the editor of the Library Association Record, Dr. A. J. Walford.

SCOTAPLL

The Standing Conference of Theological and Philosophical Libraries in London grew almost imperceptibly out of several informal meetings of librarians who were interested in improving the facilities for research in theology and philosophy in the Metropolis. These meetings were held at Dr. Williams's Library in 1948 at a time when conditions had never been worse in these subject-fields. Several of the libraries had suffered during the war, and nearly all of them were in difficulties owing to the post-war inflation. Nevertheless, between them they constituted probably the finest source of research material in the world.

There are at least fifty libraries in London which have a definite interest in the provision of material on theology and philosophy. Among these are five public libraries which take a particular interest owing to the Metropolitan Special Collections Scheme, under which they are responsible for various parts of the Dewey classes 100 to 299. The special libraries involved include some world-famous collections: Dr. Williams's Library, the Society of Friends, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Evangelical Library, and many more. Between them they probably buy a large proportion of the important books and periodicals on theology and philosophy, and yet the student or research worker who is searching for definite items often has to waste much time in tracing them, and very often fails to find what he wants. These libraries, too, have hidden strengths: thus, the Church Missionary Society, for instance, has a very fine collection of material on Islam to which it is constantly adding. And there is probably much duplication of purchases which could be reduced, thus making more money available for those items which no library is buying at present, a consideration of especial importance with regard to expensive reference works and foreign periodicals.

It was considerations of this kind which led to the formation of the Standing Conference. Prominent from the first in its work were the Rev. R. Thomas, Librarian of Dr. Williams's Library; Miss Joan Ferrier, Librarian of the C. M. S. and now Hon. Secretary of SCOTAPLL; Mr. Geoffrey Williams, Librarian of the Evangelical Library; and Dr. Stephen Spinks, then Editor of the Hibbert Journal. The five public libraries - Fulham, Deptford, Hampstead, Hammersmith and Westminster - gave constant support from the start, and Mr. K. G. Hunt, Librarian of Hammersmith, gave powerful aid as Chairman during the Standing Conference's first two years.

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SCOTAPLL holds meetings from time to time, but these are meetings of a working party rather than of a discussion group, and their purpose is to work out ways of promoting useful co-operation between member libraries. It was early decided to issue a Directory of relevant libraries, showing details of their service and stock, and this was published in 1951 (price 2s. 6d.): it is hoped to produce a new edition this year. The issue of a joint readers' ticket which would serve as an introduction to a whole group of libraries, and thus eliminate the necessity for writing individually to many different institutions, became the second project, and this service was introduced in May, 1953. Future work of the Standing Conference includes the construction of a union list of periodicals, the issue of a news bulletin, and a survey of book and periodical purchase to ensure better coverage in theology and philosophy in the London area. It has been suggested that SCOTAPLL should extend its activities to the provinces, and that it should link up with organizations in other countries. The first suggestion is still under discussion, but SCOTAPLL has already established friendly relations with a parallel organization in the U. S. A., and is in communication with other international bodies.

Robert L. Collison

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY

The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Library in Wake Forest, North Carolina which accessioned the first volumes in its collection on December 7, 1950, now has approximately 12,500 books in its holdings. The library began its operations under the direction of the Reverend Joseph R. Robinson who was then Comptroller of the seminary and who became Librarian in 1952. Mr. Edwin C. Osburn joined the staff as Cataloger in 1952 and became Librarian on June 11, 1953, when Mr. Robinson became Acting Bursar and Registrar of the seminary.

Mr. Osburn holds the following academic degrees: A. B., Howard College; Th. M., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; B. D., Crozer Theological Seminary; A. B. in Library Science, University of North Carolina; and has done further graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He has served pastorates in Alabama and Delaware; and has been a member of the library staffs of Belmont Abbey Junior College, Arkansas Agricultural and Mechanical College, University of Tennessee Junior College, and Athens College. It was from the Librarianship of the latter institution that he came to Southeastern.

The Southeastern Seminary Library now occupies quarters in the basement and chapel of the Music and Religion Building at Wake Forest College. When the college moves in 1956 to its new campus now under construction in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the seminary will take over all of the present college campus and the seminary library will occupy the present college library building after some alterations have been made.

The seminary was established by the Southern Baptist Convention and was opened in September, 1951. Its faculty now numbers fourteen and its enrollment approximately 350.

COMMITTEE ON MICROPHOTOGRAPHY

The Committee on Microphotography has published the following items on microcard:

1. Gaddis, Merrill Elmer. Christian Perfectionism in America. (Ph. D. dissertation) Microcard Theological Studies, No. 2. \$3.25.
2. American Association of Theological Schools. Biennial Bulletin. Nos. 1-20. \$10.00 a set. No broken sets will be sold.

Mr. Decherd Turner, Jr., chairman of the committee, suggests that it will be helpful to his committee and to the Microcard Foundation if ATLA members will place standing orders for the Microcard Theological Studies. Since the rate of publication is not rapid, the more standing orders which are on file, the easier it becomes to institute additions to the series. All orders should be placed with the Microcard Foundation, Middletown, Connecticut.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Christian Librarians Association held its spring meeting on April 22 at Chapman College in Los Angeles, California. The following officers were elected: president, Dr. R. Vernon Ritter, California Baptist Seminary, Covina, California; treasurer, Miss Mollie Sittner, White Memorial Hospital, Pasadena, California. Following the business session Mr. Frank Powell of Pasadena (Nazarene) College moderated a discussion on "Instruction in the Use of Books and Libraries."

The Christian Librarians Association was formed four years ago and is composed of the librarians of Christian schools, colleges, Bible colleges and seminaries in southern California. It holds two regular meetings each year.

The recently formed Western Theological Library Association held its second meeting this spring. This group now has sixteen members, representing both northern and southern California, and its membership is open to any other theological librarians in the West who are interested in the greater development of theological education through cooperative projects. The two major undertakings which are currently occupying the organization are the preparation of a union list of religious periodical literature, which is eventually to be published, and the establishment of a coordinated and cooperative acquisitions policy for all libraries in the association. This latter project will aim at the delineation of the member libraries' various subject fields and at the reduction of duplication in research materials in their area of the country. Qualified persons who are interested in joining the organization may secure further information from its secretary, Mr. Abraham Tom, San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, California.

BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT NOTES

The Divinity School of Duke University is completing plans for the doubling of its library space during the coming summer or autumn. Extensive alterations throughout the Divinity School Building will result in the remodeling of the library's present quarters for more effective use and the adding of about one hundred per cent more space to the library's facilities. When the enlarged library is completed, the stack storage capacity will be increased from 65,000 to 100,000 volumes and the reading room seating space will be increased from 36 to 100 places.

The Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, is engaged in moving into a new location at 616 Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, in which the library will have new and more spacious quarters.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky has begun preliminary planning for its new library building. The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has allotted about \$1,000,000 over the next four years for the structure. It has been designated as a Centennial Project of the seminary, which will be one hundred years old in 1959; and the new building is scheduled to be completed by the fall of that year.

Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia expects to begin work upon an addition to its library building during the coming summer. The addition will include two decks of book stacks, equipped with fifty carrels, and two towers, housing eight research studies, a machine room for air-conditioning equipment, and a film storage room.

At its April meeting the Corporation of Yale University gave approval to plans for the improvement of the Library of the Divinity School and voted funds to complete the construction. Work was begun soon after the first of May, and it is hoped that it will be completed by the opening of the fall term.

The present plans are designed to meet what is at once an educational and an administrative problem arising out of the increased size of the student body, faculty and library collection. The plans provide for improved lighting and furnishings for the main reading room, new facilities for the circulation of books and reference services, an increase in study facilities including a secondary reading room, 41 additional carrels, a conference room, a microfilm room and equipment, a periodical reading room, improved office arrangements and work space including a staff room, and a significant enlargement of the book stacks. The plans call for strict adherence to the prevailing architecture of the Sterling Quadrangle and if anything will add to and not detract from the beauty of the Divinity School.

NEWS OF ATLA MEMBERS

Miss Marjorie Atkinson has accepted the position of Librarian of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, and will begin her duties there on July 1, 1954.

Mrs. Amos C. Carey has resigned her position as Librarian of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, as of May 31, 1954. Mrs. Carey and her husband are moving to Erie, Pennsylvania where Father Carey will be in charge of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Frank P. Grisham, Librarian of the Religion Section of the Joint University Libraries in Nashville, Tennessee was granted a year's leave of absence on March 1, 1954 to serve as pastor of a church in Birmingham, Alabama. During this year Mrs. Grace N. Teague will be Acting Librarian in addition to continuing with her regular duties as Librarian of the Kesler Circulating Library.

Dr. Myrddyn William Jones became Librarian of the Butler University School of Religion in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 1, 1953. A native of Martins Ferry, Ohio, Dr. Jones received an A. B. degree from Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia, and the M. A., B. D., and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Chicago. He is an ordained minister of the Disciples of Christ and has served pastorates in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania and Rockville, Maryland.

Dr. Lucy W. Markley has been appointed Assistant Librarian of Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois and will assume her duties September 1, 1954. Dr. Markley will come to Garrett from the library staff of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She holds the A. B., B. D., and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Chicago and worked in the library of that institution as a cataloger in the field of religion until 1939. She then served as Librarian of Union Theological Seminary in New York until 1950 and went from that position to the staff of the H. W. Wilson Company. Dr. Markley is an ordained Universalist minister.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Historical Society of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in cooperation with the South Carolina Methodist Advocate and the South Caroliniana Library of the University of South Carolina has made available on microfilm, files of the Southern Christian Advocate from 1837 to 1900 and of the Methodist Journal for the years 1825-1826. The two files occupy 16 reels of film and the cost is \$128.00. Orders or requests for additional information may be filed with Mr. J. Claude Evans, South Carolina Methodist Advocate, Box 867, Columbia, South Carolina.

The Faculty of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia has recently completed and issued a basic book list bearing the title Essential books for a pastor's library. This is a mimeographed list, designed to be revised at regular intervals. It is available at \$.60 per copy, prepaid, from Essential Books, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond 27, Virginia.

The first issue of Manuscripta was published April 1, 1954, by the Knights of Columbus Foundation Vatican Manuscript Depository at Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri. This new journal is to be issued approximately quarterly and is designed to be a medium for the dissemination of information concerning the Depository; the editors hope that it will later grow into a periodical in which will be published results of the research done in the manuscript material available there on microfilm.

The initial number of Manuscripta contains, in addition to its own statement of purpose, a brief record of the genesis of the Foundation, a declaration of the conditions for the usage of the Depository, and a numerical listing of the codices now available.

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus established the Foundation for the Preservation of the Historic Documents at the Vatican Library in July, 1951. Its purpose is to reproduce on microfilm the rich and extensive collection of manuscripts held by the Vatican Library in Rome, and to make this microfilm library available to scholars in America at the Foundation Depository. The collection is at the disposal of any person who is able to present reasonable credentials, and at the present has some 300,000 feet of microfilm available. The Pius XII Memorial Library, now being erected by Saint Louis University, will furnish the permanent home for the Depository. Persons wishing further information may write to The Secretary, Knights of Columbus Foundation, 221 North Grand, St. Louis 3, Missouri.

RECENT NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

The Duke University Divinity School Library recently acquired the manuscript of Dr. F. Olin Stockwell's book, With God in Red China. The manuscript is of interest not only because of its subject matter and the circumstances under which it was written but also because of its unusual physical form, since it is written in the margins of a printed book.

Dr. Stockwell was for many years a Methodist missionary to west China. Following an absence from China during World War II, he returned to his post in Chengtu in 1946 and in November, 1950, was arrested and imprisoned by the Communist authorities as an "American imperialist spy." He was first placed in solitary confinement for a period of fourteen months and then removed to a special prison for counter revolutionaries where he underwent the now well-known brain-washing process. He was released in November, 1952.

While in the Communist prisons, Dr. Stockwell was allowed to have only two books, a New Testament and a copy of an anthology of recent American poetry, The Music Makers, edited by Stanton A. Coblenz. It was in the margins and between the lines of this volume of poetry that Dr. Stockwell, while in prison, wrote the account of his incarceration and his experience with the Chinese Communist regime which was published by Harper and Brothers in 1953 as With God in Red China.

The librarian of the General Theological Seminary, New York City, announces three major accessions. A set of the Victoria History of the Counties of England, complete to date in 110 folio volumes, has been purchased. This history is a storehouse of information concerning ecclesiastical affairs and local church history. It contains detailed studies of the great cathedrals and monasteries of England and volumes are being published on the universities.

The Bible collection has been strengthened by gifts of a Baskerville Bible and a Great Bible. The Baskerville Bible of 1763 is regarded as the supreme work of this printer and the most distinguished edition of the English Bible of the eighteenth century. The newly acquired Great Bible was published in July, 1540, by Edward Whytchurche and possesses its original title page, with the famous woodcut of Henry VIII distributing the Scriptures. The library's four other copies of various issues of the Great Bible lack this distinction.

The library of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia acquired in April a two-volume, vellum-bound facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible. The facsimile was the gift of the widow of Dr. Harris E. Kirk of Baltimore.

The library also acquired by purchase from Mrs. Kirk the excellent collection of Blake materials, both literature and engravings, which was built up over many years by Dr. Kirk. Several of the items are excessively rare and the collection as a whole is regarded as among the most significant Blake collections in the United States.

POSITIONS WANTED

Mr. I. G. Neufeld desires a theological library position and prefers to be located in the West. He is a graduate in both arts and theology from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and holds a master's degree in history from the University of Michigan. Mr. Neufeld expects to receive the M. S. degree in library science from the Kansas State Teachers College this summer. During the past three years he has been Librarian at the Hannibal, Missouri, Senior High School and prior to that taught church history, speech and Christian journalism at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, where he was also in charge of the Historical Library. His address is: 1709 - 35th Street, Hannibal, Missouri.

Dr. Frank M. Vanderhoof desires a theological library position in the U. S. or Canada beginning fall, 1954. He expects a B. L. S. degree this June from the University of California School of Librarianship. Previous training: A. B., UCLA, 1941; B. D., Princeton Theological Seminary and San Francisco Theological Seminary; A. M., Ph. D. (in Religion), Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University. Ordained minister of Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.). Experience includes: asst. minister; property management; asst. professor. Age, 35; married; four children. Address: 2709 College Avenue, Berkeley, California.

(The notice above, originally printed in the February Newsletter, is reprinted here to allow the inclusion of some corrections and additions.)

POSITIONS OPEN

The library of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia will need a Catalog Librarian to assume charge of all work in the catalog department as of September 1, 1954. Applications should be directed to Miss Margaret J. Hort, Librarian, 7301 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia 19, Pennsylvania.

The Westminster Theological Seminary, Westminster, Maryland has an opening in the position of Librarian of the Seminary. The post carries faculty rank and is a challenging opportunity involving initiative for major planning changes. Westminster is one of the ten accredited theological seminaries of the Methodist Church. Inquiries may be addressed to President Lester A. Welliver, Seminary Hill, Westminster, Maryland.

